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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED] 25X1A
SUBJECT	Iskustvo Knitting Cooperative, Sofia	DATE DISTR.	31 December 1953
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE:

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1. The Iskustvo Cooperative, engaged in the production of handknit wear, has 300 members all of whom are women with families and who work at home. The cooperative has a central store at No. 9 Slavyanska Street in Sofia where members receive wool and other materials and to which they deliver the finished work. The administrative offices, located at No. 6 6-September Street in Sofia, employ ten clerks. The management of the cooperative consists of a woman manager and an executive committee of seven members, two or three of whom are employed in the office. The manager and the committee are theoretically elected by the members of the cooperative, but actually they are persons appointed by the Central Cooperative Union (Tsentralen Kooperativen Soyuz). New members are rarely admitted to the cooperative, and then only with the influence of either the Party or some high official.
2. The production plan for 1952 was 13,000,000 leva. The entire knitwear production of winter articles of 1951 and 1952 was exported to Czechoslovakia through the Raznoiznos agency. Some 160 members used a total of 1,600 kgs. of wool between July 1952 and January 1953, the entire quantity being destined for export. Woolen yarn for retail sale to private persons was not available at the stores. The cooperative received no export order for the winter of 1953. Informant believes that another knitting cooperative is now working for export, following some quarrel between the cooperative center and Iskustvo.
3. Norms to be fulfilled by members of the cooperative are two kg. of thin yarn or 3.17 kg. of thick yarn per month. For this they are paid 400 leva on the basis of 25 working days at 16 leva per day. The manager of the cooperative draws a monthly salary of 800 leva.

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4. The admission fee or capital to be invested by a new member is 800 leva, and members are entitled to receive yearly dividends based on the profits of the cooperative. The Government took 62 percent of the gross profit of 3,000,000 leva in 1952, and after the deduction of various taxes, etc., a dividend of 84 leva was paid to each member.

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